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George Ross



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Book P82

With the regards of
Edw L. Ross.



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

AND

OBITUARY ADDRESSES

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE DEATH

OF

HON. GEORGE ROSS,

A SENATOR FROM THE TENTH DISTRICT

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.



CLARENCE M. BUSCH,
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RESOLUTION.

IN THE SENATE, *February 6, 1895.*

Resolved (if the House of Representatives concur), That five hundred copies of the memorial proceedings in the Senate upon the death of Hon. George Ross, late a member of the Senate from the Tenth Senatorial District, be printed and bound in cloth for the use of the Senate.

Extract from the Journal of the Senate.

E. W. SMILEY,
Chief Clerk of the Senate.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 7, 1895.

The foregoing resolution concurred in.

A. D. FETTEROLF,
Chief Clerk, House of Representatives.

APPROVED—The 11th day of February, 1895.

DANIEL H. HASTINGS.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

ON THE DEATH OF

HON. GEORGE ROSS.

In the Senate, January 2, 1855.

Mr. Brewer. Mr. President, now that the Senate is organized and resolutions are in order, I think this a proper time to call the attention of the Senate to the loss that we have sustained in the death of the Honorable George Ross.

Seldom has any legislative body been called upon to mourn the loss of a more distinguished member. This is not a proper time to pay a tribute to the distinguished services he has rendered his State. There is such a thing as leadership, known and recognized among men, and the members of this body, irrespective of party, accorded to George Ross, leadership. Although we have scarcely passed the threshold of this session, his absence is noticed and his counsel is missed.

It would be hardly proper for me to introduce a resolution respecting a proper commemoration of his many virtues. I leave this duty to his distinguished associates of the same political faith.

Mr. Laubach. Mr. President, in pursuance of the remarks that have just been made by the Senator from Franklin, Mr. Brewer, I offer the following resolution.

The resolution was read by the Clerk, as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare suitable resolutions expressive of the sense of the Senate upon the death of the Honorable George Ross, Senator from the Tenth District.

The resolution was again read.

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the resolution?

It was agreed to.

Mr. Grady. Mr. President, I offer the following resolution.

The resolution was read by the Clerk, as follows:

Resolved, That a special session of the Senate be held at three o'clock p. m., on Wednesday, January twenty-third, to receive and consider the report of the committee appointed to prepare resolutions relative to the death of our late colleague Honorable George Ross.

The resolution was again read.

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the resolution?

It was agreed to.

OBITUARY ADDRESSES.

In the Senate,

Wednesday, January 23, 1895.

Hon. C. Wesley Thomas, President pro tempore, in the Chair.

The President pro tempore. This session of the Senate has been called, under a resolution, for the purpose of receiving the report of the committee appointed to prepare resolutions upon the life, character and death of our fellow-member, the late George Ross.

Prayer.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Rev. Frank L. Bardens, as follows:

Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of those who have departed hence in the Lord, we do give Thee hearty thanks for their good examples and for the exemplary life of this Thy servant. Known among his colleagues, associates and intimate friends as one possessing excellency of character, irreproachable reputation, devotion to his studies, good reasoning powers, manly in disposition, true to his conscience, zealous in his work, unflinching in his principles and faithful to his duties. Of high moral standing and ever held in endearing relations, his love, esteem and affection for Thee, his God, his church and its principles. He lived to serve Thee according to the dictates of his own conscience. And whether in college, in the court room, in the Senate Chamber, in

all the pursuits of life, he lived for the advancement of the social, of the legitimate, of the moral, of the intellectual and religious part of his companions, friends and beloved family. In the instance of morality before us, Thou dost solemnly teach us that death is the end of all men. Grant us who are living, grace to lay it to heart; so to lay it to heart, as to live above the world, to seek Thy favor, to study Thy will, to observe Thy laws and in all our actions to aim at Thy glory. Regard especially, O! Lord, with an eye of compassion, the widow, bereaved of her earthly partner and friend. Mercifully grant, that in the depth of her sorrows, the light of Thy countenance may be her comfort, the gift of Thy grace and the promises of Thy blessed word, her refuge and strength. May she realize the fullness of Thy promise to be the widow's God, now and forever.

Inspire us with a living sense of the rapid flight of time, the certainty of death and the judgment to come. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Help us to bear in mind that we are strangers and pilgrims upon the earth and direct our desires to the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And, as we know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh, give us grace to watch and pray and to be always ready, having our loins girded and our lights burning like unto men that wait for their Lord. Quicken us, Almighty God, from the death of sin unto a new and holy life. That, being partakers of the death of Thy son, we may also be partakers of His resurrection, of perfect and endless bliss, both in body and soul, in Thy heavenly kingdom. And may the

good examples of all those who have departed this life in the true faith of Thy holy name and the hope of their eternal blessedness, excite us to press with more earnestness towards the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, in whose name alone we offer up our petition. Amen.

Mr. Laubach. Mr. President, I rise to perform the most mournful duty. The committee appointed to prepare resolutions upon the life, character and death of the Hon. George Ross, begs leave to report the following resolutions, and asks that they be read by the Clerk and entered at length upon the Journal.

The resolutions were read by the Clerk as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate profoundly regrets the death of the Hon. George Ross, late a member of this body, and extends to the family of the deceased Senator sincere condolence in their bereavement.

Resolved, That we are deeply conscious of the loss sustained by his death, and desire to bear witness to his sterling worth as a man, his integrity and ability as a legislator, and his courtesy and fidelity towards those with whom he was here associated.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, with the action of the Senate thereon, be forwarded to the family of the deceased by the Clerk of the Senate, and that as a further token of respect to his memory the Senate do now adjourn.

The resolutions were again read.

Mr. Laubach. Mr. President, the sad event which these resolutions deplore, occurred at the home of the deceased Senator, in Doylestown, Bucks county, on Monday morning, November nineteenth. The disease which finally resulted in his death had long

been at work on a frame at no time robust, and had given him and his friends much concern for probably a year. An ocean voyage last summer, undertaken in the hope that it might at least stay for a time the hand of the destroyer, if it could not bring about his recovery, was without avail, and he returned to Doylestown to live out a few short months of earthly existence among kindred and friends, amid the peaceful surroundings of his home, a home sanctified by the loyal devotion of loved ones and the sweet domestic happiness that ever reigned within its circle. The end came peacefully and painlessly at 3.30 on the morning in the presence of his family.

He was buried on the morning of Thursday, November twenty-two. The simple rites of the church of which he was a devoted member were attended by many neighbors and friends, and when his body was consigned into the arms of earth, his grave was surrounded by an assemblage of men high in official station, such as seldom meets to pay tribute by their presence to the memory of the departed. A large number of the members of the Senate of Pennsylvania, accompanied the formally appointed committee, attesting by their presence, their sense of loss at the death of their distinguished fellow member. The members of the Bucks county bar were present in a body, and had in a meeting called for that purpose, passed resolutions of sorrow and spread on their records touching tributes of esteem and affection.

Senator George Ross was born at Doylestown, August twenty-four, one thousand eight hundred and forty-one. He comes of a distinguished and honored line of ancestors. His earlier ancestors were of the

clan Ross, of the Highlands of Scotland, but his great-grandfather, Thomas Ross, was born in the county Tyrone, Ireland, in one thousand seven hundred and eight. Emigrating to America in early life, he joined the Society of Friends, and became a distinguished Quaker preacher, dying in the house of Lindley Murray, the great grammarian, in York, England, in one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six. His son, John Ross, grandfather of Senator Ross, was born in one thousand seven hundred and seventy, and died in one thousand eight hundred and thirty-four. He served in the Eleventh, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses, and was appointed justice of the Supreme Court in one thousand eight hundred and thirty, dying in the judicial ermine, a jurist distinguished for his learning and probity. Thomas Ross, his son, and father of the deceased, was also a prominent lawyer and member of Congress, representing the Lehigh-Bucks district in the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Congresses.

Senator Ross' mother was a daughter of Levi Pauling, of Montgomery county, a member of the Fiftieth Congress. Senator Ross was preparatorily educated at Hartsville tenant school, Pennsylvania, and Burlington and Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and graduated from Princeton College, in the class of sixty-one. Choosing the profession of his forefathers, he became a lawyer and sturdily fought his way up until he attained the position of leader of the bar of his native county. He early took an active interest in politics and soon became prominent in his party. In one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two he was elected a member of the Constitutional convention that framed the present organic law, representing

Bucks and Northampton counties in that important and distinguished body. He was elected to the State Senate in one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six, and re-elected in one thousand eight hundred and ninety, a distinction rare in the history of his county.

In one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine he was the caucus nominee of his party for President pro tempore. In one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight he was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Bucks-Montgomery district, and in one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three he was the caucus nominee of his party for United States Senator. In one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four and one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight he was a district delegate to the National convention of his party, and in one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two he attended as a delegate-at-large. Senator Ross was often a delegate to State conventions, and was permanent chairman of that of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-two.

He was for many years a trustee of the Norristown State Hospital and president of the Bucks County Trust Company, of which he was one of the founders. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Doylestown Publishing Company, and was interested in other business concerns.

It was as a lawyer, however, that his abilities commanded the greatest admiration. His remarkable memory, his profound knowledge of law, his subtle power of logic and his indomitable perseverance in the advocacy of the cause of his client will make his mem-

ory dear to the people whom he served and his name remembered and honored in the community in which he lived.

He married on December fourth, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, at the Washington Arsenal, Ellen Lyman Phipps, daughter of G. W. Phipps, of Boston, Massachusetts, who with six children are left to mourn the death of a kind husband, and a tender and indulgent father.

Mr. President, it is fitting that we pause for a time from the business of this session, from the disputes and labors, the routine of Senatorial life and offer respectful tribute to the memory of our deceased friend and brother Senator. It is all that we can do for him now. For him all the petty ambitions of life, the struggle for honorable distinction, the cares and disappointments which beset the life of every man, but which, it seems to me, harass more especially the man who is lifted up into a position where he becomes the target of press or person, are over. He passed away from an honorable and useful life in the prime of his manhood and in the zenith of his powers, before that life was rounded out into full completeness, at a time when he, with his known capabilities, could look forward to long years of usefulness in private life, or the occupancy of positions of trust and honor in the public service. But, judged by what he was and has done, no one can call the life of Senator Ross a short one. His duty in life, his obligations to his family, to his constituency and to his State have been so honorably performed, that marked by the calendar of events, his life was longer by far than many of those whose years reach fourscore and more. After all, is it not perhaps

a fortunate and happy fate for a man to pass away from this world in the height of his powers in honorable position, gained by faithful service to his fellow men, deeply regretted and lamented by them, rather than in the "sere and yellow leaf" of old age, when faculties have become impaired and powers of usefulness are gone, so that one sinks beneath the waters of dissolution, leaving scarcely a ripple behind.

To me, the melancholy event which occasions these proceedings, has a deeper significance than generally attaches to the formal declarations of this kind.

When I came here four years ago, to take my place among you as a member of this body, I knew comparatively few of those who then composed its membership. I was acquainted well with only one—the Senator from Bucks. Living all our lives in adjoining counties, both being active in the same political faith, we naturally had many mutual friends and often met in the pursuit of mutual interests and desires. In consequence we knew each other well long before we met here. This friendship was of great value to me, a new member, totally unacquainted with and inexperienced in legislative duties as I was. His kindly offers of assistance and advice were most gratefully accepted by me. He knew my shortcomings, and in the most delicate manner assisted me over the difficulties inseparable with inexperience.

This he did in no patronizing way, tending to humiliate, but in the manner of a friend sincerely desirous of assisting where he knew assistance was craved. I am sure that others in this body received the same consideration at his hands. In speaking of the distinguishing characteristics of the late Senator,

I would avoid all extravagance of eulogy for his life and character would be marred by unreal adornment. But this much must be said to be truthful:

He was a natural leader of men. He was quiet and undemonstrative in his manner, not given to self assertion or to show. He made no pretensions as a master of oratory, but if entire absence of art is the highest quality of oratory, then he was an orator indeed. He never spoke for the sake of display on this floor, but when he spoke, he always commanded the attention of every member, for the plainness and point-edness of his speech could not fail to reach the judgment of his hearers, and the honesty of his purpose always insured him consideration from those even who differed from him the most widely. He was a man of strong convictions, earnest purposes, and of excellent judgment. He was faithful in attending to his duties here and elsewhere. He hated shams and false pretenses. He was plain in manner and habits, but his intellectual abilities shone all the brighter in the modest setting. He was gentle as a woman, but in the defense of a principle or the advocacy of a measure we have seen him here "with lance drawn and visor down" in fierce and unyielding combat, giving no quarter and expecting none, yet always ready to permit the smoke and clash of battle to pass away with the occasion. He was companionable when the multitude of cares permitted relaxation and beneath a somewhat diffident exterior lay a warm and impulsive heart. It is no disparagement to others who succeed him in the Senate, to assert that, however able and patriotic they may be, his country will never send to this chamber one who can fill the place he occupied more

worthily than he did nor pass away from among us amid deeper sorrow than is felt at his loss.

Mr. President, the attainments and the virtues of our deceased brother Senator are an attractive theme and one could dwell long upon them.

A good man, an able legislator, a faithful friend, a devoted husband and father, pure in private and public life—such is his record and as such we take the melancholy pleasure to place our estimate of him upon our records. It is a glorious example to us and a priceless heritage and consolation to his stricken and disconsolate family. It will not fade nor be forgotten until the history of this State is obliterated. The name of Ross will be borne through future generations, unsullied, I doubt not, as it has been through generations past, but the place our friend occupied in our minds and our hearts will not again be filled. Memory vividly brings back to us the earnest voice, the dignified and impressive manner of the man who but a short time ago was here, a living power among living men, moulding opinions and formulating laws. The echoes of his voice still seem to linger and it is difficult to realize that the grave has shut forever from our sight all that was mortal of our lamented friend, and we are here to speak kind words of him as flowers are sometimes dropped into new made graves.

In the presence of that awful phenomenon, which respects no station and no person, we refuse to believe that the clods of earth have stilled forever this eloquent tongue, this generous heart, this splendid intellect.

That this mind, stored with the information and the culture of many long years of faithful labor and study

should melt away into nothing is difficult to believe. It is the mystery of the ages. Science with all its splendid fruits of indomitable effort and research is dumb before it. No one of all the "innumerable caravan" who have preceded us has ever return to enlighten us. Faith alone lifts the veil from the impenetrable gloom. "Though he were dead yet shall he live" is the voice of consolation and of hope. It is a bow of promise athwart a sky of desolation and despair, lighting up the horizon unto a more perfect day. Grounded in that faith, true to himself and his God, who doubts that eternal life and joy awaited our friend beyond the portals of the tomb.

We miss him, we sorely lament him, but let us say as Cicero said of his friend Scipio:

"No evil has happened to him; if to any, it has happened to us who have lost him."

Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolutions.

Mr. Gobin. Mr. President, it has been said that there is something chilling and repressing in premeditated eulogy. Yet to suspend the business of the Senate, to express the feelings which flow from our hearts and to put into words the sorrow which we feel at the loss of our late associate, George Ross, is most fitting. The best results of a life's work are only discernible after the worker has gone. The proudest history of a State or Nation is in the men who have served their best interests. Memory brings back to us all very vividly the manly form, dignified demeanor, earnest voice of the man who was admittedly the leader of the opposition in this chamber. When one feels

a personal loss in the death of a comrade or friend it is difficult to speak calmly of his completed life and untimely death.

Senator George Ross was a manly man. It is hard to realize that we shall never more hear his friendly greeting, and listen with the attention which he always commanded in the Senate, to his assaults upon measures which he opposed and his earnest advocacy of those which he favored. There are those here who recall his fervent words in the last hours of the session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, as we were about separating, and his kindly wishes as we parted. He was, during his entire service in the Senate, in the minority. But he stood firmly, rarely yielding, submitting to defeat manfully, but speedily to the fore when the occasion demanded it. Conspicuous in his service was his leadership of his party in the extraordinary session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one. He not only led his party at the time, but commanded the entire respect of the opposition. Whether he was right or wrong in the judgment of his associates, no man could question his sincerity or the honesty of his purpose. He seemed ever moved by a sense of duty and of earnest conviction. His partisanship never interfered with his personal friendships, and none could come within the influence of his genial nature without being attracted by it.

He was conscientious in the discharge of his duties as a Senator. Realizing the responsibility of his position, in the committee room, and in the open Senate, he was assiduous in the performance of every trust. With a thorough knowledge of the law, he united a

clear analytical mind, and the records bear many evidences of his power as a debator. But

“God’s finger touched him and he slept.”

In the ripening maturity of his years he was called hence, and in this presence we desire to weave the chaplet to crown his life with us—and as one of us. Those whom he loved so well need from us no laudatory words to reassure them of his merits. His life’s work is an open page, filled with deeds well done, and our commendation is but the promptings of sincere friendship, as it plants upon his grave the evergreens of memory. Our praise or censure affects him not in his eternal sleep, but to those of us who remain, aye, to all who, like him, assume duties so pregnant with the welfare of the State, it is well to recall his unsurpassed record, his brilliant leadership, his devotion to what he believed to be right.

We learn from the great English writer “that men in great places are thrice servants—servants of their Sovereign or State, servants of fame, servants of business, so they have no freedom, neither in their persons nor in their actions nor in their times. In place there is a license to do good and evil, whereof the latter is a cause; for in evil the best condition is not to will, the second not to can. But power to do good is the true and lawful end of aspiring; for good thoughts, though God accepts them, yet towards men are little better than good dreams, except they be put in act; and that cannot be without power and place as the vantage and commanding ground. Merit and good works is the end of man’s motion, and conscience of the same is the accomplishment of man’s rest; for if a man can be a partaker of God’s theatre, he shall likewise be partaker of God’s rest.”

Our departed friend, in his place in the Senate, where we knew him best, was in perfect accord with this ideal of a Senator. As a legislator he sought the public good as he saw it, and his appearance upon life's stage was of that character which entitles him to the rest upon which he has entered. May the flowers bloom upon his grave winter and summer and affection's choicest offerings be tributes to his memory. Since we have assembled this afternoon we have all advanced a step towards the inevitable, and each brief moment marks on the dial plate of time the shortened period of opportunity for our life's work. I cannot believe that Senator Ross is forever gone from us. Called hence in the prime of intellectual power, in the midst of a useful life, shall we not in some other condition of existence hope to meet again. Is the creation of man such a failure that this friend, companion, ay! and the numerous ones who have preceded him will live no more forever—I cannot believe it. The mystery is unfathomable, but with the eye of faith, the heart seeks for the light.

Mr. President and Senators, let us cherish his virtues, emulate his conscientious convictions of duty. We valued his friendship in life, we revere it now that he is gone. Let us, with an abiding faith in the Divine justice which doeth all things well, await that period when we too will depart from this life's arena, all strife forgotten, all cares rolled away, all burdens removed.

“Secure from worldly chance and mishaps.”

We say men die and are forgotten. Are we not mistaken? Men pass away, but their work remains in some form, and no part of it more indelible than the

impression made upon the hearts of our associates. This is with us until we too cross the mystic river. Realizing that, we mourn not as those who are without hope, for do we not believe with our own Long-fellow—

“There is no death! what seems so is transition;
This life of mortal breath,
Is but a suburb of the life Elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.”

Mr. President, I second the resolution.

Mr. Green. Mr. President, six short years ago it was my privilege to meet the distinguished Senator from Bucks, until then known to me only by reputation. How strange it seemed that the quiet, reserved man, modest even to timidity who took me by the hand, was the distinguished leader of the minority, acknowledged to be easily the peer of the many able and distinguished men who formed the Senate of Pennsylvania.

From this first meeting the kindly, quiet dignity of this man impressed me, and day by day I learned to know him better. Coming from the same section of the State, of the same political faith, sitting near one another we soon became fast friends; friendship ripened into admiration, admiration into love. Honest in thought and action, polite and considerate ever; kind, thoughtful and generous always. I sought to follow his splendid example and know that it has left its beneficent influence upon me.

“O et praesidium et dulce deus meum.”

To each man is given but a few short years to live upon this earth—some live too long—to some the

thread of life is cut too short, before their days of usefulness are ended. George Ross is dead, we mourn his loss; he died before his life work was finished, before its duties had all been performed, when new triumphs and new honors awaited him. Family, neighbors and friends at his home mourn his loss, but none more deeply and sincerely than his colleagues and associates in this body.

Our friend was not of humble origin, nor could he boast of being wholly a self-made man. He had great advantages, coming from a long line of distinguished ancestors, a race of lawyers, many of whom had worn the judicial ermine; he had had the benefits of a most liberal education and claimed the famous college of Princeton for his alma mater.

This scion of one of the most illustrious families of Pennsylvania, in whose veins flowed some of the best blood in this grand old Keystone State, worthy of his origin, was a prince among men.

Like many of his family he was a trained and erudite lawyer, who by years of study and patient industry had mastered the great principles of the common and statute law, and earned the proud distinction of being the recognized leader of the bar at his home.

His legal knowledge gave him great advantages as a Senator, and no one could more quickly point out an error in pending legislation, nor more accurately explain the harm of crude or vicious bills, and many and many a time has he prevented this branch of the Legislature from placing its approval upon legislation which would have brought trouble, vexation and injury to the people whom it was intended to benefit.

This great lawyer never made parade of his superior

knowledge, or sought to make cheap capital out of the errors and mistakes of his fellow Senators by making ridicule of them or the measures they proposed. Many and many is the time, instead of proposing amendments to their bills on this floor, he called them to him, and with kind and courteous politeness corrected their errors and drew up amendments which they themselves presented. His colleagues in this body will bear testimony of his kindness—he gave them freely of his time, his experience, his legal advice for the mere asking. Busy man that he was, he was never too busy to give us aid and counsel. What wonder then that we trusted him; what wonder that we honored him; what wonder that we loved him. We knew him as a skillful leader, an earnest and eloquent advocate, a finished orator.

In my mind's eye, I can see his slender, but erect form rise before me, and almost lamblike, with slow, quiet, measured, well-chosen words, begin an appeal; as he went on by degrees he grew more earnest, his words came quicker and quicker, his voice grew more and more resonant, a bright pink suffused his usually pallid countenance, then flushing fiery red with the vehemence of his exertions, he became a lion, and a torrent of impassioned words came like a mighty river and filled the chamber with their eloquence, and when he closed he would wipe the perspiration from his brow, and we all knew that this ever ready, clear, courageous and convincing speaker had impressed his hearers with his views.

Such was the man that left the impress of his integrity and his great mental attainments and legal

knowledge upon our laws during the years he was in the service of the State.

Was this man a partisan? What man of his intense convictions is not? He loved and revered his party and its true principles, and he sometimes sought to make others believe with him, but never, even in the heat of debate, did he deal an opponent a cruel or unmanly blow. Bold, zealous, vehement, I never knew him to make a personal attack on any opponent. A master of sarcasm, who ever received a harsh or angry word from the Senator from Bucks. Well could it be said of him—

“The bravest are the tenderest,
The loving are the daring.”

To his great mental attainments were added those more valued qualities of heart. Never was there a more loyal friend, and if his love of his family was more intense than his affection for his friends, how poignant must be their grief. As he loved a friend, so his great nature despised a coward, a sneak and a dishonest man.

George Ross has crossed the dark river which marks the boundary between life and death and washes the shores of the great beyond; he has gone to the unexplored country to which we all will soon follow him; a country which I believe is not very far off nor very different from this; taking with him his great abilities to live again a useful, manly life; leaving behind him an honored name, an untarnished reputation and a worthy example.

An ornament to his profession, an honor to his alma mater, a bright star among the constellation of great men who have made this, his native State famous; the

record of his life may well be summed up in the famous lines of Longfellow—

“Live I, so live I
To my Lord heartily,
To my prince faithfully,
To my neighbor honestly,
Die I, so die I.”

Mr. McCreary. Mr. President and Senators, it is impossible in the brief time allowed on an occasion of this kind to give a just estimate of the character of a man so richly endowed by nature with intellectual, moral and social qualities, as was our late brother Senator, George Ross. He was not one whose real worth could be correctly measured upon a casual or limited acquaintance, any more than can the true value of the diamond be determined as it lies amid its crude surroundings in the mine. So with him whose life and character are the subject of our discourse and consideration to-day. It required close and even long contact with his mental and moral nature, before his true worth as a man and his value as a legislator could be fully weighed and correctly realized.

His was not a noisy or obtrusive character, attracting the attention of the multitude by conspicuous address or declamatory harangue, but rather, his was a studious, thoughtful and unassuming nature, always striving to reach correct conclusions by patient investigation of such questions as engaged his attention in his professional or legislative experience.

My acquaintance with Senator Ross began when I first took a seat in this Senate in one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine, and my respect and esteem

for him did not cease when the solemn litany, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust" were pronounced over his grave, but they will remain with me as a pleasant memory until I, too, as he has done, shall have passed on to the eternal shores of the great hereafter.

Of Senator Ross it can be truthfully said, that he was a gentleman in all that the word implies. He was instinctively courteous and considerate to all with whom he came in contact, especially and notably so, in his demeanor towards his brother Senators on this floor. In the numerous discussions in which he took so prominent and distinguished part, whether in the routine of ordinary legislation, or in the sometimes angry excitement of political debate, he never allowed himself to forget the dignity of his own high office, nor the respect due to those who antagonized his own views.

He was remarkably industrious, and investigated with most rigid care, every measure of importance that was under consideration, always bringing to bear a wealth of information and knowledge. It can properly be said of him as was said of the Roman orator, "*non tetigit, ut non ornavit*," he did not touch, that he did not adorn.

His great ability and usefulness as a legislator were not confined to the discussion of questions on the floor of the Senate chamber. Indeed, if I were asked, where he appeared to the best advantage and where he rendered his best service to the State, I think I should say, and correctly so, in the quiet of the committee room. Senators who served with him on committee, will remember how carefully and searchingly he examined and scrutinized every bill and

every section of every bill that was before them for consideration; and however any one might differ with him in his views, no one ever questioned his sincerity of purpose or his unswerving integrity.

Differing with him, as a majority of the Senate did, on the political principles which he held, no one could fail to recognize the courage and manliness with which he advocated them.

As a citizen he commanded the respect of all who knew him. As a lawyer he stood in the front rank of the ablest jurists of the State. As a member of the Constitutional convention, he rendered distinguished service in framing the organic law of the State. As a member of the Senate, he was a careful, able and conscientious legislator, and when, on that still November day, I saw him laid to rest in the quiet village church yard, I felt that his country had lost one of its most illustrious sons, and his State one of her most valuable public servants.

Mr. President, I second the resolution.

Mr. Saylor. Mr. President, although not a member of this honorable body at the time the deceased graced and honored it with his presence, yet my acquaintance with him was of such a nature as to enable me to recognize in him the gentleman, the scholar and the statesman.

But he has gone from our presence, and we will know him now in memory only. His soul has fled—gone to join the countless thousands in that great unknown world we call Eternity, from whose bourne no traveler e'er returns; passed over to the other side, across the stream of time which separates us from those who through death have gone before; passed over as silently as the shadows fall. Death, that great

mysterious power that loosens the silver cord, breaks the golden bowl, returns our bodies to the earth as they were and the spirit unto God who gave it, freezes the blood in our veins, drives from our bodies of clay the spiritual and immortal substance of man that speaks on the tongue, sparkles from the eye, informs every feature and animates our whole being, has taken him from us. The soul, that invisible power which links us to the Deity and makes us "the most distinguished link in being's endless chain," has fled. Death, the great harvester of time, that gathers together "all the greatness, all the pride, all the cruelty and all the ambition of man, and covers it with six by two of sod," has gathered him in. Death, that mysterious agency of a superior, yea, a Divine power, that teaches us of a Creator above and over us all, who holds us in the hollow of His hand, who, through His son, Jesus Christ, that blessed Redeemer of men, revealed unto us His love and His truth, taught us of the world to come, and of the blessed hereafter, "where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest;" where, within the pearly gates and jaspered walls of the New Jerusalem the beloved and the chosen of the Lord shall dwell in peace, yea, abide, in love and joy forevermore.

These things God gives to those who fear and love Him and who walk uprightly in life as our beloved brother walked. If kinds words spoken, generous, noble actions done by one to those with whom he associates; if commiseration for another's woes, charity for another's faults, shown by one to those with whom he associated, and to the community in which he lived, endears such an one to us, how much dearer, greater

and more distinguished such an one becomes when his associates and the community in which he lives is deprived of his companionship and fellowship by death. Then it is, generally speaking, we are called upon to realize and appreciate the fact that we never accorded to the deceased in his lifetime the honor and the praise his services and virtues demanded.

In the great rush and worry of business, in the mad, cold, unceasing struggle for fortune and fame, "where the idol of to-day forces the hero of yesterday out of our recollection, and who in turn will be supplanted by his successor of to-morrow," we do not stop to fully appreciate and profit by the example which the life of such an one as the deceased teaches, nor to accord to such an one the honor and distinction he deserves. However, of our deceased brother, it can be truthfully said in this regard that his many virtues, his great learning and all the qualities of mind and heart that endeared him to us and distinguished him amongst us were fully recognized and justly appreciated in his lifetime, and it did not require as, alas, is too often the case, the cold hand of death to reveal and disclose them to us or cause us for the first time to recognize and honor them.

But he is gone; and all we can give him now are a few kind words, a few tears, all of which we now with loving, mournful hearts bestow.

Mr. McCarrell. Mr. President, I would do injustice to my own feelings were I to permit this opportunity to pass without paying my tribute to the memory of him, whom, at the session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, we mentioned as the distinguished Senator from Bucks. He was as has been

said to-day, undoubtedly the leader of the minority in this Chamber, and he deservedly won for himself that high position. He won for himself the compliment which was tendered him by the minority when they made him their nominee for the position of United States Senator, and when they cast their ballots for him.

I learned to know him during the session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three. I had heard of him before, but during that session I learned to have for him an admiration and regard unsurpassed by that which I had for any other Senator upon this floor.

He was a manly man. He was a gentleman of scholarly attainments; of intellectual force; of high and courageous character and honorable and noble purpose. Therefore, it is not strange that he made an impression upon the legislation in which he was called upon to participate and won for himself the proud position which he attained. Coming of illustrious family, descended from men who had rendered honorable service to the State and to the country, it was not surprising that he himself should soon have been called to fill public place. It is not surprising, descended as he was from lawyers, trained in the law and experienced on the bench, that he should have sought the same profession, and that he should have won for himself the proud position of leader of the bar of Bucks county. Called as he was to fill official and public stations he brought to the discharge of his duties an honest purpose to do what was best for the people of the State as he understood their interests. He was a member of the Constitutional convention

and participated in the framing of the fundamental laws of our State, and in that capacity he rendered valuable services. In this Chamber, in the sessions in which he was permitted to participate, he made for himself an honorable and manly record, and he has left behind him a memory that contains nothing but pleasant recollections.

He did his duty as he understood it, fearlessly and courageously. He was faithful in the doing of any work he undertook to perform. I can recall no one who was more faithful in attendance at the sessions of this body, and at the meetings of the committees of which he was a member, and who gave more valuable aid than did the distinguished Senator from Bucks. He filled these stations honorably and well, and he has left for his family and his State the heritage of a good name. No greater compliment could be paid to the memory of any man than to say simply that much. It is no little thing, Senators, honorably to discharge the duties of public station. Yet our friend and late colleague discharged the duties of the high office to which he was called so well that never has any one dared to question his integrity of purpose nor the ability with which he advocated a measure he believed to be right or opposed one which he believed to be wrong. He did for the people of this State that which he believed their best interests actually required. He was honest and earnest in everything. He had no selfish purposes. His desire was to do that which was best for the people of this great Commonwealth, and therefore it is that the people of this State sustained a loss when George Ross left the public service of earth for the service of that great bourne from whence

no traveler e'er returns. We learned to love him for what he was. His influence in the world was earnest, courageous and helpful to his fellowmen.

I have read somewhere of a spring by the ocean side, which sent up from the depths of the earth a current of water so clear and sparkling and bright that not all the waves of the ocean could keep it down; but as the waves receded, up from the earth would come again that strong, sweet current that helped all who came to drink of the sparkling water. So, Mr. President, with our lamented colleague surrounded by temptations which sought to lure him from the path of rectitude and honor, up from the depths of heart and soul with which he was endowed there always came those pure and helpful influences, the outpouring of an honest, manly and sincere heart, which controlled and ennobled his life.

I see him in memory to-day as he stood at his desk in the closing hours of the session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three. We had gathered together to say adieu to each other, and I recall the manly words with which he voiced his approval of the manner in which the duties of the office of President of this body had been performed by your predecessor. He was in the minority, he differed from him in political belief, but his partisanship carried with it no personal prejudice and never led him to do a dishonorable thing. It was with very great regret that I received the announcement of his death. It was with unfeigned sorrow that I stood with my fellow Senators around the grave opened to receive the sleeping dust, and to-day, with a sincere heart, I humbly attempt to weave for him a blended

chaplet of loyal friendship, of high personal esteem and pleasant memories.

Mr. Snyder. Mr. President, my acquaintance with George Ross began with my entrance to the Senate in January, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three. My associations with him during that session were both pleasant and friendly, and I desire with others to unite in paying by humble tribute to his memory.

In expressing my sorrow I know I am speaking the sentiment of the county I have the honor to represent, for he had many acquaintances there who admired him for his manly qualities and sterling integrity. He was always well equipped for the duties assigned him, both in committee and on the floor of the Senate.

His action as a Senator was quiet and without attempted display.

He was conservative, forcible and aggressive where these qualities were necessary. He was a born leader, without wishing or desiring to assume leadership. He possessed all the qualities which go to make up a leader.

He had an iron will when he believed he was right, and he had nerve and courage to enforce his convictions.

In debate he was open, frank and honest with his adversaries and always despised shams.

As a debater he had the gift of oratory, and few surpassed him in making his points clear.

In this Senate he stood with the minority party, but he stood firmly against odds.

He not only led his party, but he commanded the respect of the majority party while doing so.

Whether he was right at times, or whether he was wrong on some occasions, no man could question his honesty of purpose, for he seemed moved solely by a sense of duty.

Honored by his party with two elections to the State Senate, and once by being their nominee for United States Senator, and early in his life, his party honored him with being a member of the Constitutional convention which framed the present Constitution of our State, and had he lived I have no doubt he would have been called to future and greater honors. His private life was peaceful, pleasant and happy, and all that I can learn of it was tender, instructive and affectionate, and around his own fireside he was a devoted husband, a loving father and a generous friend.

It was here he was the most happy and contented, for he tried to do the full measure of duty to his family and his fellowmen.

Love, honor and truth—all the domestic virtues gathered around the family circle, and his simplicity in private life, recall the lives of many great men that have gone before him. Proud of his county, loyal to his State and ever faithful to the interests of both—he represented the best type of an American citizen.

Such men as George Ross are not born to die out of the memory of this Senate or of the people of the county he so ably represented, or in the hearts of every true Pennsylvanian.

To our friend whom we mourn to-day, death was in sight for several months, but he hoped for returning health, and to be spared to his family, but God had willed otherwise, and he humbly submitted to His all-wise providence.

He has gone to return no more. The messenger of death has stilled his voice forever, but he has left an example which speaks volumes to guide us in our future deliberations.

He has passed from this arena to the better shore, where truth, peace and goodness reign supreme.

Mr. President, I second the resolution.

Mr. Moyer. Mr. President, I desire to say a few words in testimony of my regard and respect for the dead Senator, my predecessor. Not having associated with him in this chamber as many of you have, I cannot speak of his qualities as a legislator, from personal observation, but I have known him for the past twenty years as a gentleman, a lawyer, and a fellow citizen of my own county, and have always regarded Senator Ross as a man true to the sentiment of duty, and therefore know that the trust placed in him by the people of his county was not betrayed. A German philosopher has poetically and truthfully said, "The two most beautiful things are the starry Heavens above our heads and the sentiment of duty in the human soul."

Few objects are richer for contemplation, than a man who lives, acts, speaks, and exerts his powers from an enlightened conviction of duty; in whose soul the voice of duty is the voice of God.

In such men there is a mighty force of moral power. In this Senator Ross excelled. He was true to every sentiment of duty, the soul of honor, a man of sterling integrity, retiring and modest in his demeanor, yet there was in him that which commands respect and enforces esteem.

As a lawyer he ranked as leader at the bar where

he practiced, and one who made the cause of his clients his own. With him the honor of his profession was of greater consequence than the emoluments thereof, and he served his clients faithfully, regardless of the fee they paid.

I wish to quote from the eulogy of the President Judge of Bucks county, the Hon. Harman Yerkes, delivered at the meeting of the bar, to take action on the death of Senator Ross. Among other things the judge said: "I know his worth, his honor, his affection * * * I can only say, we have lost a man possessed of all the attributes of nobility and honor—a lawyer who scorned to do a mean thing, a friend as kind as a mother and as gentle as a sister."

In speaking of his political life Judge Yerkes said, "A lawyer is drawn more or less into the turmoils of politics, the worthy people of the country expect it, and in this way and through the traditions of his family, George Ross was drawn into politics. But he was no politician. He never bowed to the Baal of popular power or passion, nor sought the flattery of popular applause. If he had been a politician he would have had more flatterers and fewer friends. He was a partisan, but not for party's sake. He stood by his family and its honorable traditions; he stood by his friends; he stood by his principles and fought for them, and in that respect he was a partisan. In the thirty years of political activity of that man, he never used a dollar, or permitted it to be used, to obtain a vote corruptly. He would have seen all go down in the wreck rather than do that. But, for his political principles, like Horatius at the bridge, he did valiant battle, and none could dissuade him."

Such high tribute of respect, coming from those who were in daily contact with him, speak volumes, and portray the character of the departed Senator far better than I am able to do.

But we read, "It is appointed men"—unto all men—"once to die," and no matter what station of honor we hold, we are all subject to death. One short sentence closes the biography of every man—He died. So with the late lamented Senator Ross, in the noon-tide of his usefulness death ended his labors. His intercourse with the living world is now ended and those who would hereafter find him must seek him in the grave. There cold and lifeless is the heart which lately was the seat of friendship; there dim and sightless is the eye whose radiant orb beamed with intelligence; and there closed forever are the lips on whose persuasive accents we have so often and so lately hung with transport.

We leave this sad picture and look beyond the grave. Death is the passing from one stage of life to another, a deliverance from bondage, a dismissal from war, a security from all sorrows and a manumission from all misery. Without this radiant idea, this delightful morning star indicating that the luminary of eternity is going to rise, life, would to our view, fade into midnight melancholy. The ties that united us to Senator Ross are not broken, they are too strong for death's stroke. They are made for the joys of eternal friendship.

Yet it seems right and proper that we revere his memory that we express our sorrow. "The sorrow for the dead," says Irving, "is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced. Every other wound we

seek to heal, every other affliction to forget; but this wound we consider it a duty to keep open; this affliction we cherish and brood over in solitude.

"Though it may sometimes throw a passing cloud over the bright hour of gayety, or spread a deeper sadness over the hour of gloom, yet who would exchange it even for the song of pleasure or burst of revelry? No, there is a voice from the tomb sweeter than song. There is a remembrance of the dead to which we turn even from the charms of the living."

This memorial service is, therefore, more than a mere passing event, and the resolutions offered more than empty words and as we pass along the journey of life, may we emulate the virtues of the deceased Senator, and when we bid adieu to life will sing with the poet—

"Life, we've been long together,
Through pleasant and stormy weather;
'Tis hard to part, when friends are dear;
Perhaps 'twill cause a sigh or tear;
Then steal away, give little warning,
Choose thine own time;
Say not, good night, but in some brighter clime
Bid me good morning."

Mr. President, I second the resolution.

Mr. Laubach. Mr. President, on this resolution I move that the yeas and nays be taken.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gobin.

Whereupon,

The yeas and nays were taken and were as follows:

YEAS.

Messrs. Andrews, Baker, Becker, Brewer, Brown, Cochran, Coyle, Crouse, Flinn, Fruit, Gobin, Grady,

Green, Hackenberg, Haines, Hardenbergh, Hyde, Kauffman, Keefer, Kennedy, Kline, Landis, Laubach, Lemon, McCarrell, McCreary, McQuown, Meredith, Milleisen, Mitchell (Bradford), Mitchell (Jefferson), Moyer, Osbourn, Penrose, Porter, Rowland, Saylor, Shortt, Smith, Snyder, Steel, Stiles, Upperman, Vaughan, Walton, White, Woods and Thomas, President pro tempore—48.

NAVS.

None.

So the question was determined in the affirmative.

Pursuant to the resolution the President pro tempore adjourned the Senate until Monday evening, January twenty-eighth, at nine o'clock.



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